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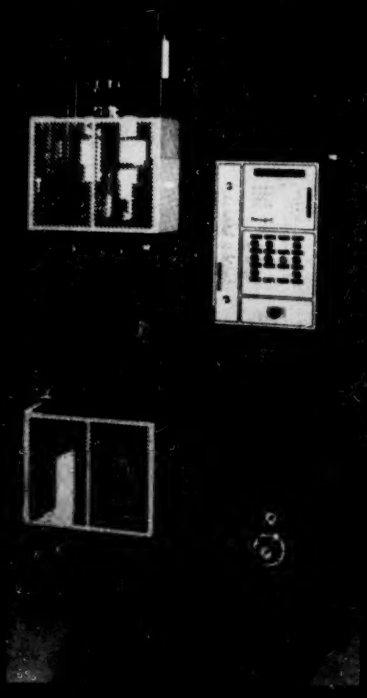


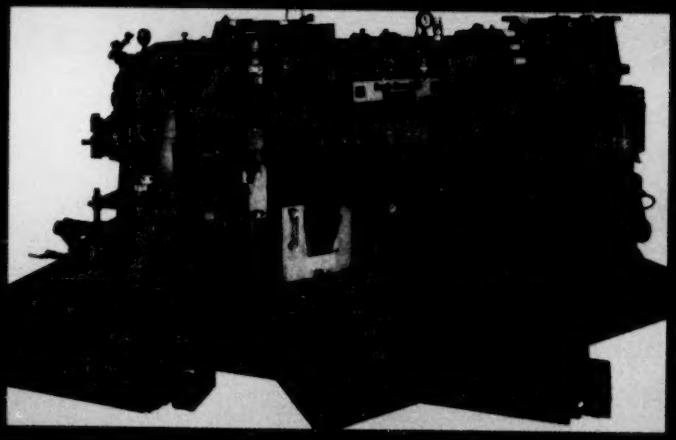
Machinery & equipment 1990

Extruders for the feeding of calenders

Practical applications of the short, adjustable MCT cold-feed mixer-extruder

Time uniformity of extrudate melt temperature

Plus:
Processing equipment directory
Used, rebuilt equipment directory
Corporate Profile '90



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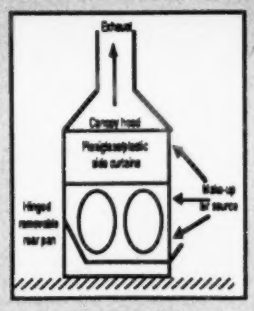

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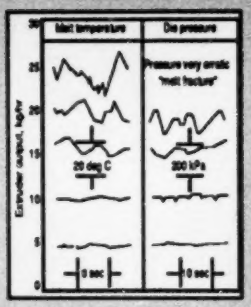

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Editorial

In preparation for this machinery and equipment issue, we send a packet of forms to those in the used and rebuilding business to ascertain their business climate. Most of the questions are straightforward including a question which usually asks what problems does the industry face. For years the most mentioned problem for the used and rebuilt machinery industry dealt with liability. So much so that it really wasn't considered news anymore.

But this year was different. Liability was displaced by the availability of a skilled workforce. It seems many companies are having a hard time finding skilled machinists to perform the work needed. All of a sudden, the liability problem became news again. Is it no longer a problem and why? Unfortunately the problem hasn't gone away. It appears that many have categorized liability as a part of doing business. It's not going to go away. Attempts have been made to rectify the situation for years with little or no headway and so it appears it is something we're going to have to live with.

But that's not necessarily so says a recent book by Richard Neely, a justice of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals and professor of economics at the University of Charleston. In his book "The Product Liability Mess" he claims business has taken the wrong avenue for redress - namely trying to get laws passed through Congress. Attempts have been made for years with no success, yet more and more money is poured into the political parties and PACs with the hope of changing things. Change that by the nature of politics and politicians will never come about according to Neely.

Neely contends, and his argument is most persuasive, that the avenue to be taken is through the Supreme Court. To those of you that cringe at such a suggestion, read the book. The Court is not anti-business as many believe and its ability to break impasses between the branches of government make it the potential prime mover in liability reform.

As Neely puts it "As long as I am allowed to redistribute wealth from out-of-state companies to injured in-state plaintiffs, I shall continue to do so. Not only is my sleep enhanced when I give someone else's money away, but so is my job security, because in-state plaintiffs, their families, and their friends will reelect me." This thinking can explain many settlements to an accident where there is no discernible neglect of the manufacturer. Settlements that will get larger and larger unless something is done. Something that the legislative and executive branches historically have been unable to do. Neely presents a blueprint for business to finally get redress from the liability problem that is well worth the look.

Don R. Smith
Editor

RubberWorld

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Business Briefs

Acquisitions, expansions

Rubbermaid acquired the privately held Swiss manufacturer and marketer of commercial floor supplies and equipment, **EWU AG**, for an undisclosed amount of cash. The company's products, which are manufactured and distributed from facilities in Switzerland and the United States, will complement Rubbermaid's domestic commercial sanitary maintenance line. The operation will report to Rubbermaid's Commercial Products Inc., and the company founders, Hans Moench and Dieter Sacks, will continue with the business on a consulting basis.

Pirelli Rubber Flooring opened a warehouse facility in California to serve the California market and western states.

Sumitomo Tire added its sixth U.S. warehouse and office facility, in Edison, New Jersey. The 200,000 square foot warehouse and 2,500 square foot office has begun shipping Sumitomo brand tires.

Cooper Tire & Rubber will begin production of radial passenger tires in the second half of 1991 at its plant in Albany, GA, upon completion of equipment installation and some refurbishing of the facility. The plant and warehouse will comprise 1.8 million square feet.

TRC Industries, Stow, OH, expanded its reclaiming services from the reclaiming of silicone (VMQ, PVMQ) and fluorosilicone (FVMQ) to include reclaiming of fluorocarbon elastomers (FKM), polyacrylates (ACM), ethylene acrylic rubber (EA), neoprene, EPDM, butyl and chlorobutyl. This expansion coincides with a recent doubling of square footage at its distribution center, an increase of 15,000 square feet. The company can also evaluate reclaim possibilities for other polymer types.

ICI Advanced Materials, Exton, PA, a business unit of ICI Americas, will sell its Ultralon coatings assets to **Whitford Corporation**, Frazer, PA. The agreement includes the Ultralon products currently manufactured and marketed by ICI in North and South America, such as release coatings for rubber molds. Whitford has a line of coatings products that complement the Ultralon release coatings.

Tokyo-based **Nippon Zeon Co.**, and its subsidiary **Zeon Chemicals USA**, opened Zeon's first American plant, a $20 million, 3.3 million pound capacity manufacturing facility to produce synthetic rubber in Pasadena, TX. Located in the Bayport Industrial Complex, the facility occupies 15 acres, with 19 acres reserved for future expansion. Some of the raw materials used will be imported from Nippon Zeon's Japanese plants.

Polysar France, part of the Rubber Division of Nova, completed spray-drying facilities for producing Krynac PXL 38-20, a powdered nitrile rubber used in phenolic blends and for plastics modification.

Polysar Gulf Coast in Orange, TX, broke ground for

RMA tire report - March
(figures in thousands of units)

Passenger tires	YTD '89	YTD '90	% change
Shipments			
original equipment	11,376	14,097	-19.3
radial	9,954	12,286	-19.0
replacement	35,245	34,128	3.3
radial	34,038	32,294	5.4
export	3,260	3,435	-5.1
radial	3,092	3,163	-2.2
total	49,881	51,661	-3.4
radial	47,082	47,742	-1.4
Production	45,425	46,431	-2.2
radial	43,859	43,017	1.5
Truck & bus tires			
Shipments			
original equipment	1,853	2,305	-19.6
radial	1,595	1,907	-16.3
replacement	8,452	8,342	1.3
radial	5,237	4,781	9.5
export	946	935	1.1
radial	748	702	6.5
total	11,252	11,583	-2.9
radial	7,580	7,390	2.6
Production	9,939	10,285	-3.4
radial	7,004	6,714	4.3

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